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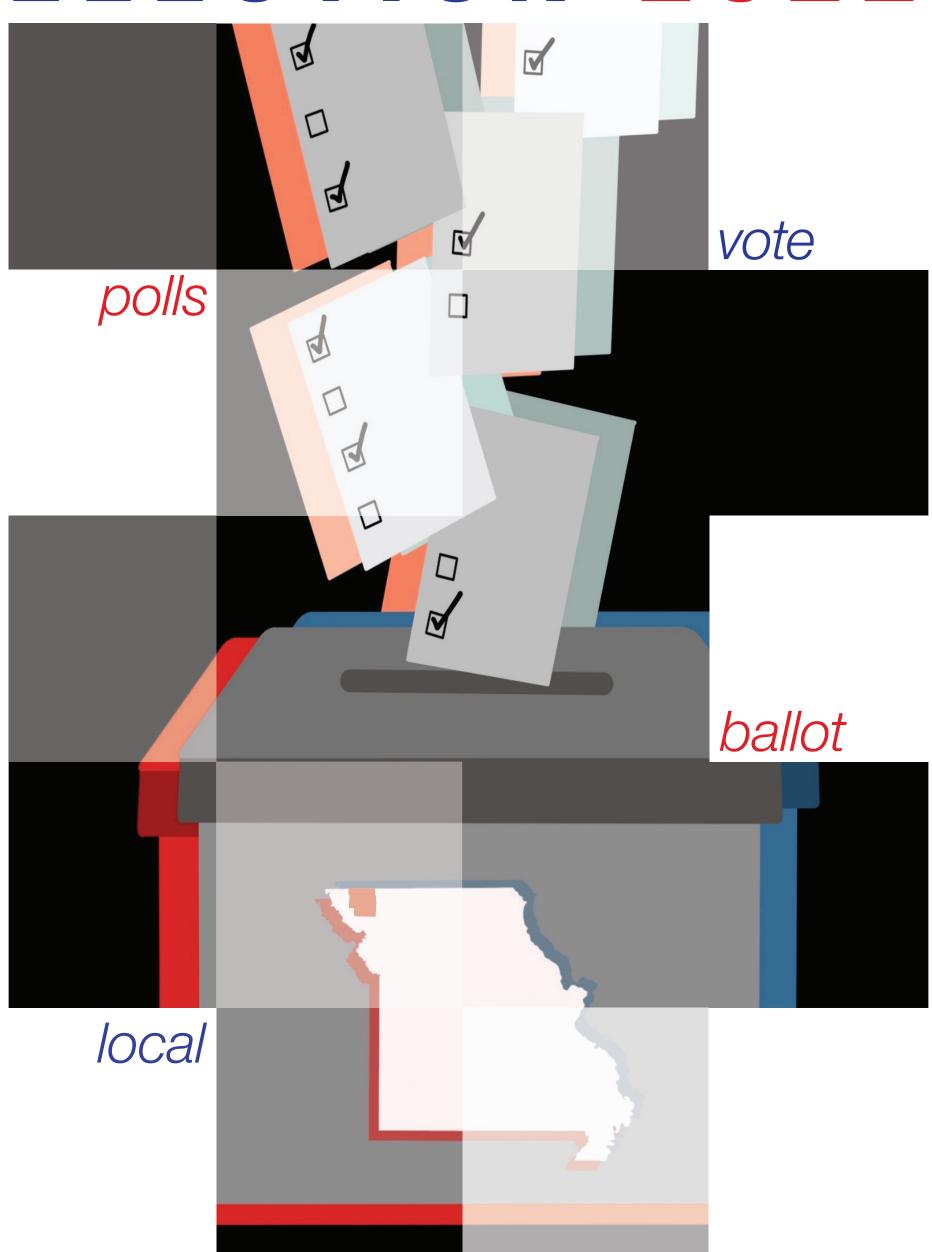


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Farnan aims to listen, build better future

SIDNEY LOWRY
Managing Editor | @sidney_lowry

Just over 16 miles down U.S. Highway 136, sits a farm in Conception Junction, Missouri, where Jeff Farnan and his wife, Joanne, have raised their family. As the polls open across the state, Farnan hopes to snag the spot in the Missouri House of Representatives for District 1.

Growing up and spending his entire life in Nodaway County, he said that he wants a better chance at representing people from across the district. After retiring from being the owner of The Spec Shoppe in Maryville and in Stanberry, Missouri, as well as having one of his sons take over the farm, Farnan decided it was time to pursue a seat as a Missouri representative.

"I was looking at (my grandson) one day, and I wondered, you know, what their life was going to be like, in 30 years, if they were going to have the same rights and liberties that we did," he said. "And I thought, well, this would be your chance to ensure that they do. So running as a state rep would be a good way to ensure their future."

Farnan said his political career and experience is limited to the seven months he has been running for representative. While he has been a member of the Jefferson C-123 School Board for 15 years, this is the first time he is running for a contested seat.

"I've always been interested in politics, but I never really thought about running for anything until I kind of retired from The Spec Shoppe," Farnan said. "I heard that Alan Andrews was terming out, so it just kind of fell into place."

Farnan said he is pro-Second Amendment rights, pro-life, in favor of full-funded law enforcement and is wanting to raise wages for teachers in Missouri.

Over the months, he has garnered endorsements from the National Rifle Association, Missouri State Teachers Association, Missouri Association of School Administrators, Missouri Cattlemen's Association, Missouri Fraternal Order of Police and Missouri Right to Life.

Farnan said that because of his background in the Jefferson School District, education-related issues are something he is wanting to focus on. Recently, Missouri Gov. Mike Parson increased teachers pay to \$38,000 a year. While that is a one-year increase, Farnan hopes to make it permanent.

"You know, being a school board president, I know what a school faces. We have to decide every year on our budget... I agree that teachers' pay is low, and I would definitely like to see it raised to a higher standard," he said.

Living in northwest Missouri all his life, Farnan is passionate about the infrastructure and roads in the area. Despite the \$53 million that was allocated by the Missouri Department of Transportation for roads in the northwest district of Missouri, Farnan said he wants to see more of those repairs in years to come.

"I would just have to get in there and fight, you know, to make sure that funding comes this way, instead of maybe going to St. Louis or Kansas City, wherever, you know, to make sure that northwest Missouri "I'm willing to sit down and talk to anybody about any issue. I don't care if they're a Democrat or Republican or Independent."

SIDNEY LOWRY MANAGING EDITOR

Jeff Farnan sits at a desk inside The Spec Shoppe in Maryville. Farnan has spent his entire life in Nodaway County as a farmer, business owner and member of the Jefferson C-123 School District. He is running for the Missouri House of Representatives in District 1.

gets its fair share of the pie," Farnan said.

FARNAN

Some of the other issues Farnan has focused his campaign on is agriculture and Second Amendment rights. Since he was born on a farm and has been a sheep and cattle farmer all his life, Farnan said he is well-versed in that category and wants to make changes to help out farmers across the 1st District.

Farnan said he believes that agriculture is the background of District 1. In his time being a farmer, he said that he has never seen costs so high, so he is hoping to look at every source available to lower costs of fuel as well as supporting the completion of the Keystone XL Pipeline to lower these costs for farmers.

When it comes to the right to bear arms, he said that since he grew up on a farm he was around guns from a young age and wants to ensure that people have the right to own firearms.

"I remember at Christmas getting my first BB gun, you know, I was on top of the world," he said. "I don't want those rights taken away, you know. I want my kids and grandkids to be able to enjoy hunting and doing all that stuff that involves guns."

Though Farnan is running as a Republican on the Nov. 8 ballot and has conservative views, he said he wants to start conversations and listen to all sides in order to build a better future and protect the next generation and their freedoms.

"I'm willing to sit down and talk to anybody about any issue," he said. "I don't care if they're a Democrat or Republican or Independent. I don't care, I will take the time to sit with you and to discuss any issue that you feel is necessary."

Robert Rice to continue services for mental health in 4th circuit

KIERSTEN HELM Missourian Reporter I @TheMissourian

A third-generation Nodaway County native, Robert Rice has served as associate circuit judge since 2020 and is running unopposed this year

Rice said he always knew he was going to go to law school to become a lawyer. Rice graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from Northwest and then continued his education at Creighton University

pursuing a law degree.

Rice's first job as a lawyer was a criminal defense lawyer for the state of Missouri Public Defender Program. Located in the north central town of Chillicothe, Missouri, he was responsible for two out of the 11 counties in this district. His role was to defend any qualified person who is accused of a crime where jail time is likely. There is a financial analysis involved to qualify for a public defender. Typically those who meet or are under the federal poverty lines would be assigned a public defender.

"My boss was fantastic. As soon as I earned some trust, he let me have my counties, and I got all sorts of trials under my belt and really just learned a lot about people and law and the criminal justice system — what I liked and what I thought we could do better," Rice said.

When Rice had the chance to move his family back to Maryville, he and his family did. In 2008, Rice opened a private practice with a business partner who he eventually bought out.

"I did anything to keep the lights on — contracts, family law, criminal defense, civil case slop and falls — anything "Rice said

il case slop and falls — anything," Rice said. Until eventually, he decided to run for political office the only way he knew how— by knock-



ing doors. He was elected and sworn in on Jan. 1, 2011 and reelected two more times after that.

During his third term as prosecuting attorney, the associate circuit judge position opened as the previous judge, Doug Thompson, was appointed appellate judge, which determines if laws were applied currently in trials. Rice decided to throw his hat in the ring for the governor to appoint the replacement for the rest of the term.

"The interview was all over the phone and nothing was in person, and I remember the interview where I was on a conference call. There were several people from the governor's office in one room. I was on speaker, and they were asking questions left and right, and I had to answer those questions. About four weeks later, I got a call, and the governor was going to appoint me."

This whirlwind of turnaround gave Rice four hours to tell his family before it was announced to the world. Since then, Rice has learned as a judge you get to step back, take a breath and listen to what they're saying.

One of Rice's priorities has been in the works for two years now and is known as the Northwest Missouri Cooperative Mental Health Board of Trustees.

"It's a quasi government organization where there's four participating counties: Nodaway, Holt, Worth and Gentry," Rice said. Rice said that while bringing 4 counties to

Rice said that while bringing 4 counties together to agree on something has been a big deal, it will have its first meeting Nov. 17 to debut this board. This board will help bring resources to these northern counties to help better the communities in them.

"One of those things that's a pretty common theme is seeing how much mental health impacts the stuff I see, and the stuff law enforcement and defense lawyers and the community sees how much it is affected by mental health even outside the court system," Rice said.

Nodaway County native Bill Walker runs for third term as commissioner

KIERSTEN HELM Missourian Reporter I @TheMissourian

Nodaway County Presiding Commissioner Bill Walker is running for his third term. A Nodaway County native, Walker raised his family of two daughters, alongside his wife, Stephanie. Before becoming Presiding Commissioner, Walker built an auto repair shop that ran for 38 years.

As a private business owner, Walker had a good understanding of what the commissioners do and thought it would be a neat experience to tackle

"I retired from my business and thought I'd throw my hat in the ring and see how it goes, and I won. As soon as I won, I sold my business," Walker said.

Coming in with specific goals, Walker, alongside the other commissioners, have been striving to make Nodaway County better and save taxpayer dollars.

"We have raised the pay for all county employees. The employees don't make what they can make in the private sector, but we have a great fringe benefits from everything else working for the county," Walker said.

With 60 employees working for the county, including the sheriff's department, in 2021, a committee came together to work on a salary and wage plan. The committee decided to adjust the Cost-of-Living Adjustments to give employees a salary increase each year. The COLA changes every year as it is based off of the county's budget of revenue.

Walker's upcoming goal is to bring maintenance forward for the Nodaway County Courthouse. The courthouse has been around since 1882 and is in need of repairs.

"We've got grants going for that right now. We're going to put in a brand new handicap ramp. It's going to be about \$200,000 to tear down the old one and put a new one in, but it needs to be done," Walker said.

When he isn't signing papers or busy in meetings, Walker has helped with maintenance to save the county a little money. He spent time in the courthouse attic replacing air filters in the furnace Oct. 28.

While the commissioners are only required by state statute to meet in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Walker finds himself speaking with citizens throughout the week, listening to concerns and looking towards a solution.

"We have a lot of good office holders right now and things are going really well, smoothly and efficiently," Walker said. "I don't think any of them that are running this year have any opposition going into the general election. It shows the people trust us and hopefully do a good job."

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Jessica Piper talks education reform

JAKOB PRATER News Editor I @JakobLPrater

Jessica Piper grew up in several southern states before moving to Maryville, Missouri, and during that time she taught English to high schoolers for 16 years. Piper is currently running as a Democratic candidate for state representative for the 1st District of Missouri, the northwest corner of the state, which includes Nodaway County. Although many of the politicians in the campaigns concerning Nodaway County are seasoned elected officials, Piper is not. In fact, Piper's story of running for office began last election season.

"When I went to vote, there was no one on the left for me to vote for. There was no Democrat, there was no one to represent progressive values in our district," Piper said. "I thought, 'You know, we can't field candidates if nobody else can do this right now, maybe I should do it.' So, I decided in 2020 to run."

As a former teacher, Piper said the most important issue that Missouri faces right now is the state's education system. Missouri is currently 50th in the nation for starting teachers' pay, and half of starting teachers leave the profession within five years. This teacher shortage has led to student teachers stepping in, teacher recruitment and retention programs and some schools switching to fourday weeks to attract and keep staff.

"You don't end up at the bottom without actively trying, and that's what the GOP has done for years. They defunded our schools in 2017, they changed the funding formula, they lowered it, so they can continue to say that they were fully meeting (the funding goals)." Piper said.

(the funding goals)," Piper said. Piper also talked about other political issues that don't just affect Missouri, but affect other states and the entire country, such as the overturning of Roe v. Wade, gun violence and the legalization of Marijuana.

When the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in late June, Missouri immediately outlawed abortion under the state's trigger law passed in 2019, with abortions only being permitted in medical emergencies, not counting rape or incest. Health care providers who perform the operation can expect to lose their medical license and be charged with a Class B Felony, meaning five to 15 years in prison.

"Women are dying, women are getting to the cusp of dying, and doctors have to consult with lawyers who have to consult with lawmakers to figure out if they can take care of a woman and keep her from dying," Piper said. "That would never happen to anybody else under any circumstance, except for a woman who's pregnant."

In response to recent waves of shootings and gun violence, Piper, a gun owner herself, talked about gun control and the Second Amendment, saying that the United States has an 'epidemic of gun violence.'

"I don't want anyone's guns, but I want to make sure that our kids can go to school and come home without being shot," Piper said.

Piper said the guns her family owns came from her grandparents, and they keep them safely stored away. Piper brought up that with a gun in the house, women are five times more likely to die in a domestic violence situation, and that farmers commit suicide by shooting themselves more than any other profession.

Amendment 3 will appear on the Missouri midterm ballots, legalizing recreational marijuana in the state and freeing prisoners previously convicted of nonviolent marijuana related crimes if voted for.

Piper said although she has never smoked marijuana and that she supports legalizing it, she isn't so sure about Amendment 3 itself. Despite fears that Amendment 3 being added to the state constitution would create marijuana monopolies in Missouri, Piper said that she will still vote for the proposed amendment.

We need to improve upon what we've already got in our community, which is a wealth of great people, hardworking people that really care about each other and then go forward."

-JESSICA PIPER

"We already live under a GOP supermajority that doesn't listen to us, and so we use the initiative process to put what we want on the ballot and sometimes the constitution," Piper said. "So while it's terribly written, and I don't love the fact that I'm forced to pick between these two things, I'm definitely going to vote for it.



Jessica Piper speaks at the Candiate Forum Oct. 20 at the Cease Fire Studios Photography workshop. Out of the six candiates who filed for the representative in District 1, Piper was the only Democratic candidate.

The people have spoken."

Piper has said that if elected, she will serve all the people of the 1st District, including the ones who didn't vote for her, and she can bring true change to this part of the state. Piper said that with her in office, she plans to improve the lives of residents in northwest Missouri and to make it a place that can be put on the map and where people decide to

move to, not move away from.

"We need to improve upon what we've already got in our community, which is a wealth of great people, hardworking people that really care about each other and then go forward," Piper said. "No more slipping back, and the only way we can do that is with a progressive candidate. And that's me."

Lisa Nickerson seeks reelection as recorder of deeds, plans to cut costs

HANNAH CLAYWELL News Reporter I @Hannah_9504

Lisa Nickerson is finishing her first term as the recorder of deeds and is running again. She was first elected to this position in 2018. Nickerson is running for this position unopposed.

Nickerson is from Nodaway County and graduated from Northeast Nodaway High School. She worked a few jobs before working at Northwest in the Office of the Registrar for 10 years.

"I had always wanted to work for the county and so I decided to run for this position. I know record keeping, and I think the history of the books is really neat," Nickerson said.

During her time working at Northwest in the Registrar's Office, she gained skills in record keeping. She helped students enroll in classes and worked on schedules. The Registrar's Office retained a lot of records which helped her gain the skills she uses in the position of recorder of deeds.

One of Nickerson's main goals is to cut costs. During her time in this position, she has already started the process of cutting the cost of keeping the records. The office has changed the way the records are printed. More pictures are put on the pages so less paper is being used.

Nickerson said Nodaway County is one of the few counties that still print books, which makes cutting costs more important.

"A ream of document paper is, I think, around \$188. That is just for the paper and not the book itself," Nickerson said.

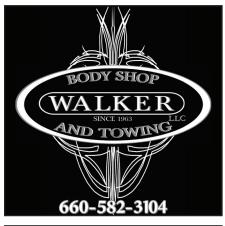
Nickerson said that it was very important. to make sure that the records were kept safe.

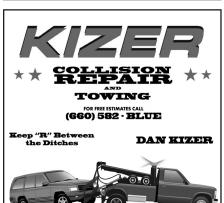
There are records that date back to 1845 in the collection. She makes sure that the records are kept in good shape and are fixed as needed.

The records are currently in the process of being put online to make sure that if anything happens, they are not lost and people continue to have access to them. She said the records are eternal, and it is important to make sure the documents stay accessible for a long time.

"I just want people to know that I am here to help. I am happy to help people," Nickerson said.

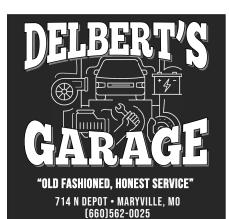
Nickerson said she is prepared to go the extra step for Nodaway County and make sure everyone has the access they want to the records at any time. She hopes to continue as the recorder of deeds and help continue to cut the costs and keep everything as safe as possible.















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Baumli backs schools, new energy options

Copy Editor I @williams2sophie

On top of being a non-traditional student at Northwest, Michael Baumli is also on the ballot for the general election Nov. 8 for the Missouri State Senate. Baumli is running in hopes to represent District 12.

Baumli ran unopposed in the Democratic primary and advanced to the general election Aug. 2.

He grew up on a farm outside of Quitman, Missouri and lived in rural Missouri for a good part of his life. For the last 20 vears, Baumli has been working in information technology. He has spent his career getting to know the cybersecurity industry and working in system administration. Baumli is currently employed at Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corporation as a systems administrator. After completing an associate's degree at Vatterott College, Baumli has returned to Northwest to complete his degree in computer science.

"I'm the guy in the back room pushing all the magic buttons to make things work," Baumli said.

With a career in IT, it took certain circumstances for Baumli to become interested in politics. He had friends that would follow politics, and they tended to lean conservative. As Baumli became more attentive to politics, he leaned more liberal. Following politics more and more over the years, Baumli used his frustration as motivation.

There were various issues that stuck with Baumli. Some of the biggest drives he used as a key to becoming more involved — like schools trying to bring creationism and religious ideas into class. He also believed the country's response to climate change never seemed like it was on par with what it should have been.

Patton plans to prosper in clerk

position

As Baumli's interest in politics has grown and he has moved through his campaign, his initiatives have narrowed down into what he believes are top priorities.

His biggest area of concern is education. The concerns with small schools in this area and the never-ending shrinking in size of these schools are something Baumli believes people need to be worried about. The shortage of teachers in the state has pushed schools to make changes Baumli thinks will harm education.

The schools rolling back to four days in a lot of these areas really is kind of unnerving," Baumli said. "I see these smaller schools getting smaller, these smaller communities getting smaller."

An issue in education Baumli also thinks needs addressed is the dropping test scores across the state of Missouri.

"Our national report card has been dropping for some time, but the level that we have recently seen with COVID-19 definitely needs to be addressed," Baumli said. "I think we need to rethink how we educate these children and figure out a way to catch them up.

One of the main goals Baumli has in place for when he is in office to combat these issues is to raise teacher pay. He said Missouri is losing too many educators over state lines. Raising teachers' pay is a solution Baumli believes will alleviate the teacher shortage.

"I want to lock as much capital as possible from the state level — to specifically teacher salaries and try to find a way to attract teachers to this state," Baumli said.

Baumli's next concern is another important key to his campaign — the environment.

"A lot of what we do here im-



Northwest student Michael Baumli poses in front of the Starbucks on South Main Street. Baumli is on the ballot for the Nov. 8 election, running to represent District 12 on the Missouri State Senate.

pacts other areas," Baumli said.
"I really kind of want to work on making a sustainable environment. I believe Missouri has the potential to become a powerhouse of energy production and energy storage.

BAUMLI

Having those qualities, Baumli said Missouri would be leveraged in an agricultural sense, which he said could be the same in energy production with renewables.

Baumli is also an advocate for rural Missouri and small farming communities. There are certain programs Baumli said can help rural Missouri rebuild its small communities. He said Missouri has the ability to draw people in and to set up schools that can become a new hope a hope that can entertain new ideas and rebuild.

With a farming background, Baumli finds it a big influence in his support for small farmers. Baumli grew up around people who shared similar farming experiences he had. There are certain aspects to farming Baumli said just aren't around anymore.

"I always felt like I was out in the middle of nowhere," Baumli said. "When there's less people there, that definitely becomes more apparent."

Baumli wants this experience of small farmers to be shared and hopes that mental health issues among small farmers can also be addressed.

Among these problems Baumli plans to take action against, he feels the frustration of voters when the options on the ballot are limited. He the Missouri State Senate.

thought it was unacceptable and decided to step up and run.

"I'm kind of throwing myself out there as a sacrificial pawn, but, hey, you know, we'll do what we can," Baumli said. To Baumli, getting involved

is a takeaway he wants people to get from this election. He said the biggest problem there is now in politics is not enough people getting involved. People need to get out and vote, but people also need to step up and take other roles.

"I'm nobody special. Anyone can put their name on the ballot. If you think you can do a better job, please, step up,'

Baumli is running against Republican candidate Rusty Black Nov. 8 to represent District 12 in

ALYNA THIBAULT Missourian Reporter I @TheMissourian

Melinda Patton is the cur-

rent county clerk and will be running unopposed as a Republican in the Nov. 8 election. Patton graduated from

Northwest Missouri State in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. She was first appointed to the county clerk position in 2017 to fulfill a vacated term. She was recommended to take on the position because she would make a good fit.

"I did some of my own research and looked into it and thought this is something I can definitely do," Patton said. "I'm pretty organized. I've dealt with grants and government money

before so to me it was a good fit and was looking for something new and challenging."

A county clerk is for the county commissioners. Patton takes their minutes, gets research done for them and assists commissioners in meetings and their agendas. She has many other duties than just helping the commissioners — like helping run the elections and doing reports like railroad, utilities, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, which is an annual report for school funds and more.

People come to her office for licenses for liquor, auctioneers or notaries. She is

also the budget officer for the county where she prepares the annual county budget.

Patton thinks that elections and budget are the hardest part of her job, budget is a lot of numbers and files she has to put into a budget. Then elections are just chaotic and long. On odd years there are two elections and on even there are three. Since this is an even year, there was be one election in April for municipal and township, then in August the primary was held and in November there will be the general election.

"I think this position is important because what people don't realize is the clerk's office interacts with almost every other office in the county,' Patton said. "We can help facilitate some of the things they're trying to do. We are the business office so everybody's budget that they have, all the things that they are buying, those invoices come to us. Our office is important because of that, interactions with all those other offices to make day-to-day things go smoothly."

Every day is different for Patton. Since it is election season, she has been focused on that, but every Tuesday and Thursday she is in with the commissioners.

"I've learned to be patient because you're dealing with a lot of different personalities and attitudes," said Patton.

Wilson reviews decade as circuit clerk

ALYNA THIBAULT Missourian Reporter I @TheMissourian

Lifelong resident Elaine Wilson Republican is the current Nodaway County circuit clerk and will be running unopposed during this election. She took her first clerk's oath in 2011.

Wilson grew up in Conception Junction, Missouri. Before she became Circuit Clerk, she was the Polk Township tax collector, but in 2006 after her last two-year term, she went to court reporting school to become a voice writer. Her two friends then convinced her to run for circuit clerk, and she won.

"I tell people the job is stressful, it's very busy, but I like what I do. All the experiences that I've learned in court about how cases are processed, what the parties go through and helping people get the information they need," Wilson said.

When Elaine was first appointed, she heard many complaints and changes she heard people wanted to make.

'I made it my mission to sit down and learn every bit of the job that I had to learn," Wilson said. "Because I felt it was my duty in the position to learn and be able to cover for people when they were absent.

The circuit clerk is the first step into the court system. Wilson works with four other clerks, two clerk III and two deputy clerks. The cases that come through their office are associate circuit civil and criminal, juvenile, mental health and probate. Clerk III supervises the deputy clerks and these clerks take on specific cases like one could just work on civil while another works on mental health.

Wilson can take on any of those cases but her most difficult cases are probate, which is the validation and administration of a deceased person's will.

"You really have to work uninterrupted on those because you have so many different things you have to think about that have to play into that case, especially guardians and conservators," Wilson said. "Do you qualify, we have to do a background check, criminal check, financial check, so there is just a lot that goes into probate."

In 2015, the court became fully electronic. The clerks use two different methods to process their work, Judicial Information System and Show Me Courts. Wilson reviews the documents to see if they are complete and in the correct order then they process the document and put it out to the public on Case.net. It is also important the information on how

the case was resolved is correct

and filed. Clerks also deal with many phone calls about paying tickets, court case dates, court and case questions and others. They have to be aware of the information they give because some information cannot be released as well as they are not allowed to give out legal advice.

"We have to be sure that the defendant is allowed their due process to make sure their case is heard quickly, properly and correctly," Wilson said.

This year Wilson and her clerks received the Daniel J. O'Toole reward which is for case processing time standards and court efficiency.

"This year our circuit was the only one in the state that met the criteria for that award and that says a lot about your circuit, " Wilson said.

★ ★ ★ ELECTION 2022

Rep. Rusty Black runs for senator

JAKOB PRATER News Editor I @JakobLPrater

Rusty Black has been interested in politics for a long time - ever since he was in high school. Being involved in student government and being active in teacher organizations during his time as an ag teacher, Black has mainly focused on advocacy for ag teachers, including the Missouri Farm Bureau.

Black was first elected to the Missouri State House of Representatives in 2016. The end of December will be the end of Black's third term as a representative, and this election season Black is changing scenery from the House of Representatives hopefully to the State Senate for District 12. With a change in his political career potentially arriving soon, Black reflected on his time as a state representative.

"I've enjoyed it. Very few days have been miserable. There have been, of course, tough votes. Tough decisions that I had to make in that position," Black said. "Some things I thought were simple to get fixed as an ag teacher were not nearly as simple to get fixed by the time you fully have to go through the complete process of being able to pass a piece of legislation and get something written into statute or law."

Black often worked on the Budget Committee. At the beginning of his first term, they had very few extra funds to work with, which led to some tough decisions having to be made. The last couple of years have been better, with more funds, more grants and less hard decisions to be made, being able to invest in capital projects within the state, such as infrastructure, water, sewers, transportation and land.

"When you start digging through somebody's checkbook, you learn an awful lot about that person, as well as what their priorities are and how they have to try and continue to try to spend less money than they make,

Black said throughout his po-

litical career, he's enjoyed helping people, both constituents in his area or some people out of it, as well as explaining the legal process and why some things can and can't happen. The area for senators is larger than the area for a representative, moving up from three counties to 18 and a half counties in northwest Missouri. Black said as a representative, he was able to make lots of appearances in those three select counties, and it's something he plans to do if elected senator of the district.

Black said that an issue close to his heart is veterans and their mental health. Black's eldest son served in the military for eight years, and upon coming home, he began to suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and addiction.

"I've had several students that have served our country, and unfortunately, some of them are struggling, and some of them didn't survive their struggle," Black said. "I'm hoping to try to have an impact on that."

When the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade June 24, Missouri was the first state to ban abortion due to trigger laws. Black said that he believes the Supreme Court made the right decision with the overturn, putting the decision back to the states. Black said he had voted for the current abortion law in Missouri, which bans any abortion after six weeks except in cases where the woman's life is in danger.

Black said for gun control, he believes there are enough restrictions around the purchases of firearms and suggested adding more funding to the process of background checks as well as approaching the mental health side to the issue.

"There's been cultural changes that have changed our mental health, and little things may band-aid it, but we've got to get our entire society to decide 'we've got to start doing this different because what we've done in the last 50 years



Black has been involved in politics since he was in his high school student government. After serving three terms as a state representative, Black is now running to be a state senator for District 12.

has caused these problems," Black said. "We're not going to fix them overnight, but we got to start going back in a different direction.'

With legalizing marijuana appearing on the ballot for midterms, Black said he does not support recreational cannabis being added to the state constitution. He said he believes the long-term effects of legal marijuana will hurt Missouri.

"The long-term effects of rec-

reational marijuana will have a negative impact on the citizens of our state, both financially, as well as the culture of our state," Black said. "I have plenty of friends that argue with me the other way and say 'well, alcohol is just as bad.' If it's just as bad, let's don't create a second problem."

With polls open and people voting, Black said his political campaign staff has done well and their chances of win"I've enjoyed it. Very few days have been miserable. There have been, of course, tough votes. Tough decisions that I had to make in that position."

> -RUSTY **BLACK**

ning are strong. Black said his strategy has consisted of campaigning across all 19 counties with the help of his "county captains" and other helpers across each county.

"I think we did as good as we could possibly do," Black said. "I feel like we'll do strong, but I guess until (the election) is over, I won't know for sure."

State treasurer reform, recreational marijuana to be on midterm ballot

KENNEDY KALVODA News Reporter I @Kennedy_Kalvoda

The last day to vote in the midterm elections is right around the corner. For the state of Missouri specifically, there are a lot of ballot initiatives that will be voted on in this election.

The first amendment on the ballot is Missouri Amendment 1. This would amend the Missouri Constitution to allow the state treasurer to invest state funds in highly rated municipal securities. A municipal se-

curity is defined as a bond that is issued by state or local governments.

The ballot measure would also allow the legislature to pass laws that would allow the treasurer to invest in other financial instruments and securities that they deem reasonable. Some examples are cash instruments, derivative instruments, debt based financial

instruments and equity based financial instruments. Cash instruments are a financial instrument whose value is influenced by the current market. Derivative instruments are a financial instrument that derives its performance from the performance of an underlying asset. The underlying trades in the cash or spot markets. Debt based financial instruments are assets that require a fixed payment to the holder which usually comes with interest. Equity based financial instruments are assets that serve as legal ownership of

As of right now, the state treasurer is only allowed to invest in federal and agency bonds, time deposits in Missouri banks, repurchase agreements or shortterm unsecured corporate debt.

The next amendment for voters to decide on is Missouri Amendment 3. If the majority of voters vote ves. this amendment will change the Missouri Constitution to legalize marijuana for adults who live in Missouri who are over the age of 21. This includes sale for personal use, purchase, possession and consumption.

John Payne, campaign manager of Legal Missouri 2022, said this initiative will allow individuals with certain marijuana-related offenses to petition for release from prison, parole or probation and have their records expunged automatically, which is different from some states who have included expungement in their legalization initiatives.

The final part of the amendment is that if it's passed, the state will enact a 6% tax on the retail price of recreational marijuana.

Payne said he believes if this initiative is passed,

the tax revenues from marijuana businesses will help the Missouri economy immensely, and that those revenues will go towards funding areas such as public defenders, veterans services and more.

"This is something that is going to really improve the lives of tens of thousands of people who are no longer going to be arrested, hundreds of thousands of people who will be eligible for expungement and also create a lot of economic opportunities," Payne said.

The next amendment being voted on in Midterms is Missouri Amendment 4. This amendment would amend Section 21, Article X of the Missouri State Constitution by allowing the Missouri General Assembly to increase minimum required funding for a police force that has been established by a state board of police commissioners before 2027.

This amendment would increase the minimum funding of the Kansas City, Missouri police force. The reason being that Kansas City is the only city in Missouri that does not have local jurisdiction over its police force.

The final amendment being put forth is Missouri Amendment 5. This amendment to the Missouri State Constitution would create the Missouri Department of the National Guard, which would serve as an administrative department within the state's executive branch.

Capt. James Richardson, commander of the Northwest Missouri State Show-Me GOLD program, said that this amendment would create a direct tie to the governor for the National Guard and would be helpful in times

"I think this will make us able to respond faster, more efficiently and more directly," Richardson said. "We have National Guard students, and particularly in my program, I'm hopefully developing them to be future commanders as well. When these guys are eventually in charge later on in their careers, this will make their career just that more efficient.

Another subject voters will be making a decision on during this election is the Missouri Constitutional Convention Question. If the majority of voters vote yes to the question, a group of elected delegates will come together to have a constitutional convention. At this convention, they will discuss elements of the state constitution and discuss whether or not changes need to be made to the document.

Polling locations will open 6 a.m. and close 7 p.m. Nov. 8. Missouri voters will be required to bring a valid government-issued photo identification in order to vote. Valid forms of identification listed by the Missouri Secretary of State are a driver's license, a nondriver license, a United States passport or a military ID.

Tina Deiter talks victim's rights as county attorney

HANNAH CLAYWELL News Reporter I @Hannah 9504

Tina Deiter is running for the position of prosecuting attorney for Nodaway County. Her position would hold her responsible for the decision to prosecute someone based on a criminal offense. She is running for this position unopposed.

Deiter graduated from law school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2003. For three years she worked at a public defender's office in Jackson County and Buchanan County. She then came to Maryville and opened her own office and has been a sole practitioner since opening.

Deiter grew up in Maryville and graduated from both Maryville R-II High School and Northwest Missouri State University before continuing her schooling in Kansas City, Missouri. She has been back in Maryville running her own office since 2006 to continue her career as an attorney.

"I came up here and opened my own office and have been the sole practitioner since then," Deiter said.

She has been an active member of Maryville's community. She has been a part of the St. Gregory Barbarigo church and went to an event hosted by the Northstar Advocacy Center to discuss domestic violence.

Deiter ran for associate circuit judge in the 2014 election. She was not appointed to this position, but that has not stopped her from trying to be a representative in Nodaway County.

Helping people is the main point of becoming the prosecuting attorney for Deiter. She made it clear that helping is her main focus and fighting for the rights of people is important for her.

"I am going to fight for the rights of victims and put victims' rights first," Deiter said.

going to be held Nov. 8.

Deiter said she wants to make sure victims come first and get substantial help. Their rights are important to her and one of the main things she focuses on.

This is going to be a demanding transition for Deiter, and she said she is prepared to take on this role and do what she can to make this transition successful. Deiter said she is going to do the best she can with this position to help people.

"I just thank everyone for their support and ask for patience as I make the transition," Deiter said. Deiter said she hopes that everyone continues to support her through her transition to prosecuting attorney and during her time in that position. The elections are

STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

A look into who you will see on the Nov. 8 ballot

SIDNEY LOWRY Managing Editor | @sidney_lowry

s absentee ballots are sent in and days count down toward election night Nov. 8, people are finalizing their votes not only for local representatives, but also for the U.S. State Senator, state auditor and a seat in the House of Representatives for the 6th Congressional District.

U.S. Senator

On the ballot, sits four different competitors for the U.S. State Senator: Eric Schmitt, Trudy Busch Valentine, Paul Venable and Jonathan Dine.

Schmitt is the Republican party candidate and has sat as Missouri's attorney general since 2019. Before becoming the attorney general, Schmitt served as the Republican treasurer of Missouri from 2017-2019 and represented Missouri District 15 in the State Senate from 2008-2016.

When it comes to issues he wants to battle if he wins the U.S. State Senate seat, his campaign mentions that he wants to continue to hold China accountable for the spread of COVID, stop big tech companies from canceling conservatives on their platforms, save jobs by fighting to reinstate the Keystone XL Pipeline, support religious freedom and more.

Busch Valentine is the Democratic party candidate. Busch Valentine worked as a nurse for the Salvation Army Residence for Children and wants to continue her passion of helping others, specifically children.

Busch Valentine's campaign starts with the legalization of recreational marijuana because of the funding benefits for veterans health care, drug and alcohol addiction treatment services and it would expunge all nonviolent related crimes. She also is a supporter of fighting against the opioid epidemic, looks to improve quality and affordable healthcare and is an advocate for women's rights.

Paul Venable is the Constitution party candidate who has over 30 years of experience in information technology services. Venable's campaign issues he is focusing on are definitizing the Constitution, having a Republican form of government, reinforcing property rights and more. Dine is the Libertarian party candidate who ran for the U.S. Senate from Missouri in 2012 but lost in the general election.

State Auditor

There are three competitors gunning for the seat of Missouri State Auditor in the ection this November: Alan Green, Scott Fitzpatrick and John Hartwig.

Green is the Democratic party representative on the ballot. Green served on the Missouri House of Representatives for District 67 from 2014-2021. Green also formerly served as the director of the Missouri Office of Equal Opportunity as well as a police officer and minister.

In his campaign, Green has been an advocate for being a watchdog for identifying where taxpayer dollars can be saved. Green's campaign said that he wants to educate the public on functions of the office by visiting all corners of the state, communicate what can be done and what can be audited, encourage communication about concerns, make the office more visible and focus on transparency, accountability and efficiency.

Fitzpatrick is the Republican party candidate who worked as a member of the Missouri House of Representatives for District 158 from 2013-2019. He also has worked as the House Budget Chairman as well as the State Treasurer.

Fitzpatrick's campaign outlines the

main points of fighting waste and fraud and blocking taxpayer funding for illegal immigrants. He emphasizes his time as House Budget Chairman when talking about making strides in those issues. Fitzpatrick also says that school district oversight is one of the issues he wants to combat in this position.

Hartwig is the Libertarian party candidate running for state auditor. Hartwig has been working as a certified public accountant for retail, wholesale, manufacturing, health professionals and more.

In his campaign for state auditor, Hartwig identified that he wanted to be an independent auditor for Republican and Democratic state officeholders since he has a unique view being a Libertarian candidate. He also said some of the policies he wants to initiate are a review of priorities based on requests from taxpayers and a reassessment of recruiting efforts for qualified auditors for staff.

U.S. House of Representatives in the **6th Congressional District**

There are three competitors running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in the 6th Congressional District: Sam Graves, Henry Martin and Edward "Andy" Maidment.

Graves is running for reelection to this seat after serving in this office since 2001. Before spending the last 21 years in the House of Representatives, he worked in the Missouri State Senate from 1995-2001, and before that was a farmer and a businessman.

Graves' campaign for this election highlights the points of financial discipline for Congress, cutting taxes, continuing tax reform — specifically for small businesses — and drafting legislation for farmers to compete in global markets. Other campaign promises are to develop and consider all forms of energy to reduce reliance on foreign oil, making sure tax dollars aren't used to fund abortions and to protect the Second Amendment.

Martin is the Democratic party candidate for the representative seat. He served in the U.S. Army during Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Gulf War, as well as has had tours in Iraq and experience in the National Guard. After his time in the military, Martin became a math teacher and coached high school sports.

In his campaign, Martin hopes to work on the justice system through bail reform, mental health services and the decriminalization and legalization of marijuana. He wants to continue to fight to raise the min imum wage to \$15 an hour, work to get Medicare for all, promote responsible gun ownership and work on reforming actions to combat climate change.

Maidment is running for the representative seat for the Libertarian party. He is a retired U.S. Army officer and an information technology security professional.

On his campaign website, he outlines four different values that he has: limited government, keep your money, peace and prosperity and accountability. When it comes to limited government, Maidment wants to eliminate federal departments that have no Constitutional basis like the Department of Education, Department of Commerce and Homeland Security.

READ MORE ONLINE

A full version of this story with a more in depth look at the statewide candidates and their stances is available online at **NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**



JONATHAN DINE Libertarian U.S. **Senator Candidate**







TRUDY BUSCH **VALENTINE** Democratric U.S. **Senator Candidate**







SCOTT FITZPATRICK **Republican State Auditor Candidate**

JOHN HARTWIG Libertarian State Auditor Candidate



ALAN GREEN Democratic State Auditor Candidate

SAM GRAVES **Republican Congress Rep. for 6th District Candidate**





HENRY MARTIN Democratic Congress Rep. for 6th District Candidate

EDWARD MAIDMENT Libertarian Congress Rep. for 6th District Candidate







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Rev. Lem Whitmer

Where Life... Meets Love

Prioritize victims, not unharmed assailants



MAKAYLA POLAK @kavpolak

People constantly say that you need to pick your battles, that you need to make sure that you are willing to die on the hill of the argument that you are about to make. For me, I've been standing on this hill, and I don't plan to get down anytime soon.

Recently, a protest was held in light of the allegations made against an Alpha Kappa Lambda member for sexually assaulting someone. Statements have been made, social media attention has risen and people are furious — I am too.

I have to say that I am proud of every single person that has spoken up about this, specifically the victim. Directly, from one survivor to another, you are brave and strong — we are all here for you.

I am glad that we are coming together in support of not only her, but each other. This is not just about one person though, this is about an endless issue that seems to never stop.

So if there is a hill that I am going to die on, it is that we protect the assailant far too often and forget to prioritize the victim.

Alpha Kappa Lambda President Carter Stancil released a statement on the @akl_nwmsu Instagram account in regards to the allegations.

This is a great start and, yes, we understand that legally this is a Title IX issue, and details and names cannot be given out. This issue isn't Stancil's statement, if anything, it gives more information than we receive in any other sexual assault investigation.

If you disagree, I challenge you to look into past sexual assault cases. You will struggle to find names, details and any information that you need. Yes, need. Think about it this way, you might be sitting in class, next to someone who is protected by the system.

I've been there, I went through the entire Title IX process for them to protect him, for them to tell me that he has the same rights that I do. It's astronomically infuriating. Assailants do not deserve to continue living their lives in the same manner that they did before quite literally committing a crime.

I say committing a crime because there is no other term for it. Sexual assault, depending on the level of offense, is a punishable crime, whether felony or misdemeanor. Considering it is, in fact, a punishable crime, there is no justified reason to protect assailants.

I wake up each day and think about how my assailant is living their life just as any other person. They are more than likely unphased by what they have done to me, meanwhile, I'm worried that I'm just a name on a roster.

Their names need to be released, and they need to stop being protected. Their name being released might just be the one thing that protects another sexual assault victim from reining that title — a title that not one person would ever have to carry.

I will die on this hill. I will scream and yell until my lungs give out because the world we currently live in prioritizes an assailant, someone who destroyed another's life. I've picked my battle, not only because I wanted to, but because more people need to be fighting this fight.

To report a sexual assault or speak with a sexual assault advocate, call UPD at 660-562-1254. The National Sexual Assault Hotline is 1-800-656-HOPE.



ALEXANDRIA MESZ CARTOONIST

OUR VIEW:

People should shop at small businesses for holiday gifts

The holidays are approaching and that means that the shopping season is as well. Of course it's easier to go to Walmart on Black Friday or go to your nearest Target the night of Thanksgiving, but the real gifts are located elsewhere.

Of course it's always recommended to shop locally, but it's important to shop at small businesses, whether online or instore. The Editorial Board will be shopping at small businesses this holiday season, and we encourage everyone else to as well.

Small businesses are usually avoided for the cost. Of course it's easier to buy a five dollar shirt from Amazon and get it shipped to your door in two days. Why would you want to put more money into a product that might take longer to ship to you and will cost you more in the process?

The answer is simple, because just like the company that is making the Amazon shirt, these people have to start somewhere. More importantly, they are putting their time, hard work and effort into a product. It may not seem like it, but 70% of small business owners are run by a single person. This means that each time you purchase something from a small business, you might just be buying that person's dinner or paying for the gift they are giving to their family members.

Opposingly, when you buy from corporations, you aren't buying someone's dinner, you are putting money into the

pockets of billionaires and paying for their next car. Shopping locally doesn't have to be expensive either.

Etsy, Facebook Marketplace, Instagram Shop and many similar places currently have many different things that you can buy for your family and friends. There are plenty of options to find what you need. Most of the time, the things that you buy, the money is going to a family similar to yours.

When you walk into a big chain store, there are aisles and aisles of the same product all in a row for people to pick off. While Walmart may have a cheap and cute AirPods case, there are plenty of small businesses that also have them, but they are going to be personalized.

Telling a person that their return receipt is in the box is off putting. Why would you want to do that when you can explain to your family member that you talked with the person that made it to ensure they got exactly what they'd want? It's not only more meaningful, but it's thoughtful of you as well. The product you get from small businesses will be better quality, and the people you give it to will notice.

When you get older, the toys, technology and appliances out of a catalog aren't as appealing as something that is one of a kind. By shopping small, you're able to bring in a deeper meaning to that gift and will ultimately mean more to

the person you're giving it to. It's nice to give someone the newest name-brand item, but the holidays aren't supposed to be about the gifts you're given.

It should rather be about the people you're spending that time with, so gift giving should be about the same. Being able to shop small gives you an opportunity to make those personal touches on a gift and have a deeper meaning than just spending money on something.

Shopping at a small business not only makes the gift you give to someone else more personal, but also helps out the person you bought it from. Everyone around the holidays can use a little extra money simply because everyone is spending money on gifts for someone else. Your Christmas gift could indirectly turn into someone else's Christmas gift, and it might be for someone who is struggling to get one.

Buying from a small business doesn't mean you have to walk around the streets of your town looking for someone selling something at a booth, it has become easier than ever before to find a variety of different products with the option of personalization online. While shopping small sometimes may come with a bit more money out of your pocket, the meaning behind gifts and the possibility of giving your loved ones something irreplaceable is a reason it should be worth the price tag.

YOUR VIEW: Are you planning on shopping small this year?



ABBIE LANCASTER Senior **Human Services**

"I try to, but I also try to save money so I'll probably buy most of them on Amazon. If I can't find it, I'll go to other places."



LOGAN JACKSON Junior Elementary Education

"I usually shop off of Etsy which is mostly built off of small businesses and stuff. Some things I will get off Amazon, just like mainstream T-shirts and whatever."



BIANCA CANNOVA Sophomore Marketing

"No, I don't plan on shopping small this holiday season because I always go all out for Christmas and holidays. I shop everywhere like downtown, the Plaza.

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat wants construction back

This week will go down in Maryville history — the flashing yellow lights on South Main Street are no longer with us. The red and green lights have returned and so have the mile-long row of cars that lead up to them. I miss you yellow lights.

We took it for granted. We complained and cried over the road work, but it was nothing compared to the moment I saw those lights change from red to green. I thought I had escaped that reality. I thought I didn't have to worry about stopping at the intersection ever again.

They say yellow represents the sun and life. Well, I won't feel alive until I see those yellow lights, blinking as I drive to Taco Bell for the umpteenth time of the week.

Tears filled my eyes as I found the closest parking lot and went

back home. I don't even remember what I was driving that way for. It didn't matter anymore. I felt lost and betrayed. How am I supposed to just go back to stopping all the way back at Burger King on my way to campus? How am I supposed to just sit there waiting for my turn for the light to turn green?

I never thought I would miss road work so much, but I do. Please, put the road work back. Let us just drive through. Let us feel full again. Those 57 pairs of tail lights in front of me bring me nothing but sorrow.

I'm gonna stay off South Main Street for a while because it's just too much for me to handle. Come back yellow lights — I miss you.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of the Northwest Missourian.

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CONTACT US (660) 562-1224 (660) 562-1635

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Your first copy of the Northwest Missourian is free. Additional copies cost 25¢ each.

Dear Neighbor,

My name is Jess Piper. I am a teacher, a mom and grandmother, a rural advocate, and I am running to be your next State Representative. I want to make Missouri better for all of us.



For 20 years, one party has controlled both the House and Senate here in Missouri. They have held the keys to the kingdom and if they wanted something to pass - it did. If they wanted something to fail - it did. They call themselves Republicans, but I know many Republicans who would never do what they did. So, let's call them what they are: opportunists. They say what we want to hear to get elected, then use their office to fatten their wallets while neglecting us.

They brag about "budget surpluses" while our communities suffer. That's our money, and we meant it to be put to work in our communities. Instead, our children are neglected, and their futures are stolen because they defund schools and pay teachers the lowest wages in the country. Many of our NWMO schools now run a 4-day week because Republican legislators refuse to adequately fund schools.

If you've driven down a lettered highway lately, and felt the rattle and jolts, you know in your bones that current Missouri legislators have failed to address our infrastructure, leaving us to spend even more to repair our vehicles.

The Missouri GOP helped foreign companies and greedy investment groups buy Missouri farmland out from under us. They drive up the price of land, making it unaffordable to farmers and the children of farmers who need land to make a living.

Missouri women and girls have been reduced to second-class citizens, stripped of the right to make decisions about their own bodies. With no exception for rape or incest, the extreme Missouri abortion ban will force children to bear children. The GOP has even written bills to criminalize the treatment of ectopic pregnancies, the non-viable pregnancies inevitably lead to the mother's death. We can't let the GOP practice medicine from the House floor.

It doesn't have to be this way. That's why I made the tough decision to run for office. Some say I can't win this district, but I had to try. Aren't you tired of not being heard? Aren't you tired of our elected officials working for the wealthy and well-connected and avoiding the rest of us?

It doesn't matter if you're a Democrat, Republican, or somewhere in between - I'm here to fight for you. You matter. We matter. Our children matter. Our schools matter. Our small towns matter. All of us out here farming and working in our communities matter. We aren't going to be walked on anymore. We will be heard. It's time to vote.



Jessica Piper



Maryville boys soccer senior defender Gabriel Baldwin celebrates the Spoofhounds first goal during the 7-0 Senior Night win Oct. 13. against St. Pius X. After winning their Nov. 1 semifinal game, the Spoofhounds now prepare to compete in the Class 1 District 8 Tournament.

Blow out propels soccer to title game

MASON HYSKELL Sports Reporter I @masonhyskell67

The Maryville boys soccer team beat Cameron for the second time this year. The first time came during the regular season Sept. 2, and the second — and most recent — time came in the second round of the Missouri Class 1 District 8 Tournament with a score of 10-0 Nov. 1.

Coach Jesus Gonzalez said having a healthy, talented roster gives him confidence for the rest of the tournament.

"With our next game, we are confident in our odds," Gonzalez said.
Gonzalez said he is hoping for good

Gonzalez said he is hoping for good outcomes in the district tournament, but he is going to focus on keeping the players focused on one game at a time.

"Being able to take the game piece-by-piece is going to allow us to go further in the big tournament and will get us through the tough games in the long run," Gonzalez said.

The Dragons (3-13) were the first opponents, as the Spoofhounds received a bye for the first round of games after earning the No. 1 seed in the bracket. Assistant coach Courtney

Kennedy said the game against Cameron was unlike anything Maryville has experienced before.

"The atmosphere of this game was very different from any other game we have played this year. We came in with our heads in the mindset to win at all costs. You could hear the crickets, the players were so locked into the task at hand," Kennedy said.

The Spoofhounds came into this game ready to make good on their top seed, scoring 10 goals — five from senior forward Quinn Pettlon — in one half while holding the Dragons scoreless.

After the first five minutes of the game, Gonzalez said the Spoofhounds transitioned from a very passive defensive set of mind to getting the ball across the field aggressively. He said part of it was singling out Cameron players to create mismatches.

Now with the semifinals behind them, the Spoofhounds prepare for the district title game against Lutheran High School of Kansas City, Missouri.

Kennedy said Maryville was moving the ball and reading the defense

UP NEXT

MHS vs. Lutheran (Kansas City) 6 p.m. Nov. 3 Cameron, Missouri

well. She said it was clear the players were not just playing with their bodies, but playing with their souls.

"After the win, you could hear the stomping feet from the other side of the field," Kennedy said. "Being excited was an understatement for the boys. I have never seen them so happy during this season. All the blood, sweat and tears they have dedicated to the season as a whole are paying off."

For the Spoofhounds, senior defender Gabe Baldwin said this was one of their main goals at the beginning of the season. He said they planned all year on being the best team in their district and make sure that they treat every game like it was the last game they would ever play. He said the team's success does not just belong to the players.

"We know as a team that we wouldn't be here without the help of our parents and our coaches that made practice tough but enjoyable," Baldwin said.

FLORIDA CONTINUED FROM A12

"Obviously it's a big hole to fill, for sure," Waters said Oct. 11. "I think everybody in the program is figuring out their new roles and how we're gonna fit. I feel like we're in a good position."

Over the summer, the program lost Hudgins to the NBA, but it did keep 2022 MIAA All-Defensive selection and the player who is No. 9 on the program's all-time scoring list, Diego Bernard. On the Fourth of July, the senior guard announced via his Twitter that he would return to Northwest for his final year. Whether he'll be slamming the ball into the basket or draining a 3-pointer, the St. Joseph native is in green and white for one more year.

Approaching the beginning of the season, McCollum said Bernard had possibly his best preseason as a leader of the team.

"It's hard to drag people with you and make them be what we are as a culture, and Diego did a great job," McCollum said. He said multiple players have

He said multiple players have stepped up as leaders throughout the offseason, but the team may take a bit of time to truly figure out how it's going to work offensively.

The team also added four freshmen, guards Jonah Hinton and Bennett Stirtz and forwards Jack Ratigan and Trey Moala.

In the preseason National Association of Basketball Coaches poll Nov. 1, Northwest starts the season at No. 1, and West Texas is at No. 5. The Bearcats will be tested early in a top-five showdown to begin the season, before playing Flagler — their semifinal opponent during the 2020-21 championship run — the next day. McCollum said he appreciates the challenge, but rankings don't matter until the end of the season.

"You get exposed, and that's why we scrimmage tough teams is because we want to be exposed early in the season so we can make adjustments and fix what we need to fix," McCollum said. "... No. 1 doesn't really mean anything right now. It's nothing that we've earned. We want to earn that at the end of the season, not at the beginning of the season."

WARRIORS CONTINUED FROM A12

Webb said there were a lot of other games that were pivotal and high pressure games this season, including Blair Oaks, Pius and Lutheran North.

This playoff game will be the first time the 'Hounds have played at home since Sept. 30. A lot happened in that month including a win over Highway 71 rival Savannah Oct. 14 and beating Lafayette-St. Joseph for a share of the Midland Empire Conference title Oct. 21.

Home field advantage might play a big part in this game, as the Spoofhounds are 26-1 in district tournament play in the

SEMIFINALS

CONTINUED FROM **A12**

The two squads met in the

2021 MIAA playoffs, where the

Hornets won 2-0 Nov. 12, 2021,

and moved on to take down Central Missouri in the title game.

The two met again in the first round of the NCAA Tour-

nament — Northwest's first ever appearance in the tournament — and 'Cats once again came up short against Empo-

ria. It was there the Bearcats'

best season in program history

came to an end. The Bearcats

will enter the second contest

against Hornets of the 2022 season with a chance to re-

write last year's conclusion. With Central Missouri being

the 2022 conference regular sea-

son champions, the MIAA semi-

finals and championship will be

'Hound Pound since Webb took over in 2012. Maryville is also undefeated at home this year with a 3-0 record.

"Something special here," Webb said. "That's why you play hard, and it's why you schedule a difficult schedule to be able to get a one seed and get a bye week to be able to refocus and reset. The key is to play those home games. Having a culture and tradition we have here speaks for itself, and this is a special place."

"It shows how much love there is in Maryville for football," Quinlin said about the energy at home. "All the energy during the game is what really helps us just go out there and play our best and play for the town of Maryville."

held in Warrensburg, Missouri. The winner of the two semifinal matches will go head-to-head in

the championship match Nov. 6.

If the Bearcats are to emerge vic-

torious, they will face either Cen-

tral Missouri or Fort Hays State.

9

consecutive wins for Northwest soccer since Oct. 2, including playoffs.

"I am confident that our team has the opportunity to win," Stirling said. "Playing this caliber of a team can be nerve-racking, but it's also exciting because I know we have a shot."





'IT WAS VERY TOUGH AT THE BEGINNING'

Zamurri opens up about career for Northwest tennis

TYLER PETERSEN
Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports

Maryville is 5,153 miles from Rieti, Italy, but junior tennis star Andrea Zamurri made the commitment to Northwest in 2019 and never looked back.

Zamurri has spent the last four years of his life in Maryville and has come a long way since he started playing tennis at age 10. He grew up in a city with a population of around 45,000 people and was very young when tennis impacted his life. Zamurri said he first got into tennis from watching his father. So, in return, Zamurri began to play the sport himself. At first, he did not love tennis, he said, but continued to play the game for his father.

Fast forward 13 years later, Zamurri is a three-time All-American and looking to continue thriving in his tennis career. Coach Mark Rosewell has been there every step of the way for Zamurri in his collegiate career and said he is just a

great person.

"The day I picked him up at the airport, he was squared away, and I just liked him immediately," Rosewell said. "And he's got a very consistent personality. (He's) well liked on the team (and) co-captain on the team. I mean he's a great player, but you know, and people say this, but really an even better person."

Zamurri had a tough process in getting used to Maryville. Zamurri said he, like many others on the tennis team, got homesick and really struggled to feel at home when moving across the globe. This wasn't an uncommon feeling, as he bonded with his teammates that were facing the same problem.

"It was very tough at the beginning," Zamurri said. "I'm not gonna lie, you know, stuff like changing culture, language. I had no friends when I came here, of course, but then being in tennis helped me a lot because I met, basically, a new family for me. Everybody here has the same problems, and so, therefore, they helped me a lot."

Zamurri has a career singles record of 46-11, giving him multiple honors in different areas of tennis. With two years left of eligibility, Zamurri said his favorite thing about tennis is the competition.

"You know, when you play basketball, it's five-v-five," Zamurri said. "I like the fact that, if you win, it's all because of you and if you lose, it's all your fault. So, you know what you have to work on."

The recruiting process for Zamurri was a little different than basic recruiting. Rosewell said he can't take the credit for getting Zamurri to come to Maryville, but instead gave it to a former player and former assistant coach Romain Boissinot. The Le Pellenn, France, native started the recruiting process for Zamurri and ended it with a commitment to the Bearcats.

While the junior is on the court for matches or practice, he wears a wristband with the colors green, white and red to represent the Italian flag. He said he is proud to display where he's from

play where he's from.
"I started wearing it like two years ago, and it's something that I would always wear," Zamurri said. "I'm really proud of being Italian. The United States of America gave me a lot, of course, in the last four years, but I'm always gonna be proud to be Ital-



TYSON ELLIOTT PHOTOGRAPHER

Northwest junior Andrea Zamurri works on his receiving with his team in individual practices Nov. 1. Zamurri is a three-time All-American and will have a chance for another MIAA Championship with the team in the spring.

ian, and I'm always gonna show it." This fall season, Zamurri received

This fall season, Zamurri received his third Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-American honor in his fourth year at Northwest — his second singles All-American honor. He also received his third invitation to the ITA Central Region Championships as the No. 1 seed in singles and the No. 2 seed in doubles with his partner junior Fillippo Piranomonte.

However, Zamurri was knocked out in the round of 16 in singles by Washburn junior Sebastian Pjontek in a 10-point tiebreaker. In the doubles, Zamurri and Piranomonte were knocked out in the semifinals to teammates senior Mason Meier and freshman Jan Skerbatis, who would go on to win the region.

Zamurri said all of his success is from the hard work he has put in while playing tennis at Northwest.

"When I came here, I started working really hard on tennis, you know, like practicing outside of practice times," Zamurri said. "I think that paid off during the years."

"He's done everything, MIAA all-conference, ITA All-American, all that," Rosewell said. "But, two years ago we got to the top eight in the na-

tional tournament, and I think he's really hoping to do that or better because he's a team guy."

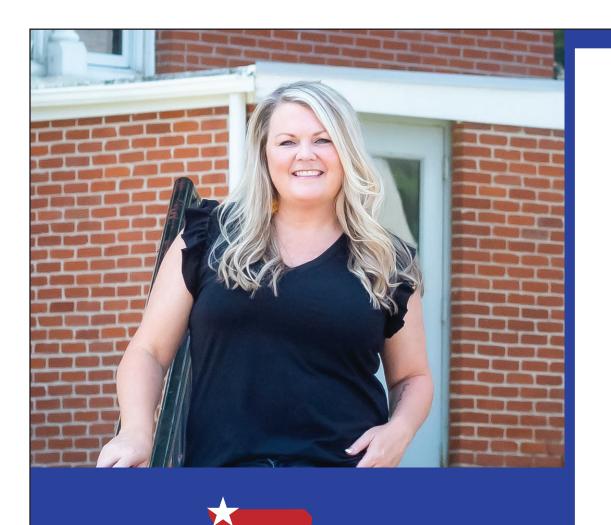
In his tenure at Northwest, Rosewell said Zamurri has been an even better student than athlete. Rosewell said he's proud to be where he's at, and he's all-in as a student-athlete.

"He's an excellent student," Rosewell said. "I mean, straight A's most of the time, so he's good and you know, I think he really loves the school too, which is really rare these days. But he really is, he's all about being a Bearcat."

Zamurri has one year of eligibility left with the COVID year granted to athletes by the NCAA, but he said he's already begun thinking about his life after he is finished in the green and white.

Zamurri said he has no plans on pursuing tennis professionally. However, the Italy native doesn't want to cut tennis completely out of his life.

"I'm 23 now so I just want to, you know, work on my future," Zamurri said. "I think I'm gonna stay in tennis but maybe as a tennis coach. That'll be awesome."



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A11



Northwest football freshman running back Jay Harris rushes for 15 yards during the 36-3 win against Northeastern State Oct. 22. Harris scored three rushing touchdowns in the Northwest 28-24 win over Nebraska-Kearney Oct. 29.

Twelve Bearcats set for final game in Maryville

WESLEY MILLER
Sports Editor I @wesleymiller360

Before the first tackle, before the ball is kicked off at the start of the game and even before the first whistle is blown Nov. 5 against Missouri Southern, 12 Northwest football players will experience a last.

Juniors wide receiver Trevon Alexander, linebacker Andrew Blum, tight end Ryan Dewhirst, running back Robert Rawie, offensive lineman Seth Zegunis, defensive lineman Walker Graves along with seniors running back Kevin Dominique, defensive tackle Elijah Green, defensive tackle Elijah Green, defensive tackle Zach Howard, running back Jamar Moya, linebacker Sam Phillips and quarterback Braden Wright will enter Bearcat Stadium as players for the final time of their careers.

"I don't think the emotions have set in yet," Wright said. "It's exciting, but it's probably going to be a really sad day. I can remember the first time out of the tunnel for a game in 2018. I can remember it like it was yesterday."

Before the 60-minute clash between the Bearcats (7-2) and Lions (4-5), the 12 players will be honored prior to kickoff for Senior Day.

As Northwest prepares for the Senior Day matchup with Southern, the Bearcats are on the heels of their third consecutive win. After being down 24-14 heading into the fourth quarter against Nebraska-Kearney Oct. 29, the Bearcats scored 14 unanswered points for the 28-24 win. Coach Rich Wright said the team is finally starting to form into what he had hoped for early in the season.

"The team is coming together and rallying," Rich Wright said. "We're finding ways to win football games."

"It's kind of a reality check, like, 'Wow, we should have had this earlier,' and that's a lot on us. Just thankful that it's not too little too late," Braden Wright said.

The win gave the Bearcats their seventh of the year and kept them in the race for a playoff spot. However, they still have a little ways to go before then.

In the most recent Super Region Three rankings, Northwest came in at No. 10. Just No. 10 won't be enough, though, as only the top seven teams earn the right to advance to the postseason. The Bearcats' next step to making a case for the playoffs is against Southern.

Northwest is 28-4 all-time

UP NEXT

NW vs. Missouri Southern 1:30 p.m. Nov. 5 Bearcat Stadium

against Southern and have won 26 straight games against the Lions. The 'Cats have scored 38 or more points in the previous 14 matchups between the two squads.

Rich Wright isn't concerned about anything from the past, though. To him, it doesn't matter how many times the Bearcats defeated the Lions, and it doesn't matter by how much they have won by. He said the Lions are much improved under second-year coach Atiba Bradley, and he expects a hardfought game from them.

Regardless of the outcome of the Bearcats' final home game of the regular season, Braden Wright said he is happy about his time at Northwest.

"It's crazy how fast it goes," Braden Wright said. "I've been trying to tell guys on the team, 'Don't take it for granted.' I think that's kind of what's hitting me now is looking back, like, 'Wow, that did fly by."

Maryville XC teams sprint toward state meet in Columbia

MASON HYSKELL Sports Reporter I @masonhyskell67

The Maryville boys cross country team took second place at the district's Oct. 29 in Platte City, Missouri, scoring 73 points.

The Spoofhounds had a successful weekend, with four out of the five runners placing in the top-15 at Class 3 District 4 Tournament. The girls team also found success at districts, as two runners placed in the top-20. Coach Rodney Bade said the athletes were able to achieve this success, even with doing it on one of the most challenging courses in the state.

"Going to state for us is the true test of being able to stay in the calm, relaxed state and don't forget what you have been doing all season and being able to use what you have learned through the seasons."

-BRADLEY

DEERINGSOPHOMORE

Sophomore Dylan Masters placed fourth with a 5K time of 17 minutes and 27.64 seconds. Sophomore Bradley Deering came in seventh, running a 17:34.36. The two sophomores scored 11 points combined.

"Having a course that was very hilly and wavy, as we hit the second mile into the course, the hill made the course a lot harder for us to run up," Masters said. "But, once we were able to get over that second-mile hill, the course was a lot easier to han-

UP NEXT

Class 3 State Tournament Nov. 4-5 Columbia, Missouri

dle the rest of the race."

Bade said as the Spoof-hounds were running through the course and they had gotten to that last mile, the running path became very sluggish due to the slight inclines and slopes. He said the teams had one thing to think about — go to this meet and place as high as they could.

"This course really showed us who the true runners are," Bade said. "Platte City was a true cross country course with hills and divots all throughout the course. Some parts of the course are at a higher elevation than others. Pushing through this course — as the second hardest course in the whole state of Missouri — was not easy for them, but they were able to come out, conquer the course and still make it to the state championship."

The girls team before the competition had some struggles with the course at Platte City because two of its runners went down due to past existing problems that Bade said he thought were resolved.

"One of the girls had experienced a past of asthma that we thought we had control of, but, with this course changing so much and not being the most ideal for some of our younger runners, it's hard to find a rhythm to get into," Bade said. "Also, with the girls not having a full team for this meet, we weren't able to place."

The boys team will be moving on to the Class 3 State Championship Nov. 4-5. The Spoofhounds have made it to multiple state championships, including in 2021. At the championship a season ago, there were over 20 teams with five athletes. Deering said the size of the competition creates part of the challenge, but the team's training will help the athletes for the contest.

"Going to state for us is the true test of being able to stay in the calm, relaxed state and don't forget what you have been doing all season and being able to use what you have learned through the seasons," Deering said.

Volleyball has possibility to make history against Jets

RIVER BOYD
Sports Reporter I @RiverBoyd5

With only two matches left in the regular season, No. 10 Northwest volleyball is in first place in the MIAA. If the Bearcats win over No. 21 Central Oklahoma, the Bearcats will secure at least a share of the MIAA title for the first time in program history.

The first time these teams played, the Bronchos swept the 'Cats Oct. 7 in Edmond, Oklahoma. Despite being swept, Northwest was only outscored 63-54. This time the Bearcats will play the Bronchos Nov. 2 in Bearcat Arena.

This match will not be finished in time for publication.

Sophomore middle hitter Avery Kemp said the Bearcats have been successful at home so it's exciting to finish the season at home.

"It's encouraging to go into our final games with that advantage," Kemp said. "We make it a goal to defend the paw, so the stakes are high."

Northwest is coming into the final week of the regular season with a nine-match winning streak and a perfect 8-o record at home.

This success has helped give the Bearcats seven MIAA Player of the Week awards and an American Volleyball Coaches Association National Player of the Week award. The latest two recipients are sophomore libero and defensive specialist Kyah Luhring who snagged Defensive Player of the Week. Junior setter Alyssa Rezac was awarded Setter of the Week for the third time in a row.

"It feels really good to finish the season at home," Luhring said. "Our home crowd has been amazing the last few home matches, so it's exciting to get that experience for two more games."

The final match of the regular season is against Newman Nov. 4 in Bearcat Arena. If the Bearcats beat Central Oklahoma, then a win against the Jets will give the 'Cats the MIAA title outright for the first time in the history of Northwest volleyball.

In the game that propelled Northwest to the No. 1 spot in the conference for the shot at a title, sophomore middle-hitter Abby Brunssen had nine blocks, six digs and 15.5 points in a win over Nebraska-Kearney Oct. 29 — all three season-high stats for her.

"I think we just need to do what we do," Brunssen said. "We've never lost to Newman in program history. We just need to run our systems at a high level and still see Newman as a threat because our conference is obviously crazy, and you never know where somebody is going to come from."

Not only could the MIAA title be on the line, but Northwest will also be celebrating its seniors for Senior Night.

Some of the players will be stepping onto the floor for a regular season match for the final time of their careers. Luhring said it can be a special night for the whole team.

"We don't want them to leave," Brunssen said. "Our se-

UP NEXT

NW vs. Newman 6 p.m. Nov. 4 Bearcat Arena

niors have put so much into this program, and we're so proud of everything that they've done. Hallie's been here for six years, so it's emotional seeing them

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For coverage on Northwest soccer's semifinal game see nwmissourinews.com

Nov. 3, 2022

NATHAN SMITH PHOTOGRAPHER

Northwest soccer midfielder Teagan Blackburn defends against Washburn freshman defender Brooke Powell from kicking the ball. The Bearcats and the Ichabods fought Oct. 30 for a spot in the MIAA semifinals, and Northwest won the game 3-0.

Cats move onto second round

CRAIG MCMULLEN Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports

second half turnaround on offense in the conference quarterfinal round helped advance Northwest soccer to the semifinals. Bearcat sophomore midfielder Hannah Stirling began the turnaround on offense scoring her sixth goal of the season less than a minute into the second half.

The goal was ultimately the first of three in the second half during the game against Washburn Oct. 30. The Bearcats got the 3-0 win, and they advanced to the

"Being able to score quickly coming out of halftime was a big advantage so we could get some momentum going into the rest of the half," Stirling said.

Coach Marc Gordon has now led Northwest towards back-to-back MIAA semifinals for the first time in program history. For the second time this season, the Bearcats — the No. 3 seed in the tournament — will face the defending MIAA Tournament champions and No. 2 seed in this year's bracket, Emporia State.

Earlier this season when the Bearcats and the Hornets met Sept. 30 in Emporia, Kansas, the Bearcats experienced a challenge of slowing down Emporia senior forward Mackenzie Dimarco. She scored all three goals for the Hornets, leading to a 3-2 win that sparked a successful second half of the regular season for Emporia.

In the next nine matches, the Hornets only lost one game against Central Oklahoma Oct. 16. That loss to Emporia was the week before the Bearcats started its eight game win streak Oct. 2.

"Regardless of who we are playing, to be at this point in the season and have the opportunity to keep playing feels good," Gordon said. "Every team that is left is really talented, and it starts to get tighter with the quality of our team and each team we play."

Dimarco is a player that teams have a difficult time slowing down when playing Emporia. She leads the MIAA in goals with 16 and is behind Bearcat junior for-

UP NEXT

NW vs. Emporia State 12 p.m. Nov. 4 Warrensburg, Missouri

ward Kaylie Rock for No. 2 in the conference in shots with 71.

Bearcat sophomore defender Grace Wineinger is one of Northwest's defenders that will be going up against Dimarco, but she said there's added motivation after the loss a season ago to Emporia in the semifinals of the 2021 MIAA Tournament.

"It's a déjà vu moment, playing the same teams we did last year in the tournament," Wineinger said. "We didn't get the result we wanted last year and this vear against Emporia State. We want to make it to the final because we feel like we are a different team, and it will be a really good test to see where we are at."

SEE **SEMIFINALS** | **A9**

Spoofhounds face off with Week 4 foe in second round of postseason

RIVER BOYD Sports Reporter I @RiverBoyd5

Coming off the bye week, Maryville football will play St. Pius X in the second round of the Class 3 District 8 Tournament. This game has big stakes on the line as the winner of this game will advance to the district tournament championship.

Pius beat Cameron 49-6 in the first round of the district tournament Oct. 28 to move on and play Maryville. This gives the Spoofhounds a chance to avenge a narrow 34-27 loss to the Warriors Sept. 16 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Maryville coach Matt Webb said each game provided a chance for the Spoofhounds to learn and grow as a team.

"I hope this time around we just play a better game," Webb said. "Score more points than they do and don't allow as many as we have. We just need to play better in all three phases.

Like his coach, junior quarterback Derek Quinlin said executing in all three phases will create a win this week for the Spoofhounds.

The last time that Maryville beat Pius was Sept. 20, 2019, in the 'Hound Pound. Since that game, the Warriors have beaten the Spoofhounds three straight times — with each game being decided by 12 points or less.

'If we lose, then we're done for the season, and that's pressure," Quinlin said. "But, I think we like the pressure, and we can handle it under pressure.'

Even though Quinlin said there's added weight in the postseason, Webb said his team is used to this environment and will be prepared for Friday night's game.

'I call it excitement. I call it energy," Webb said. "It's win or go home, but I don't know if it's pressure. I think good teams rise to the level of exciting and pivotal games. This team throughout the season has been able to do that. We've played a high emotional game against Savannah for a conference championship.

SEE WARRIORS | A9

UP NEXT

MHS vs. St. Pius X 7 p.m. Nov. 4 'Hound Pound

Three-time defending champions to tip off new season in Florida

Sports Editor I @wesleymiller360

When Northwest men's basketball takes the floor Nov. 4 inside George W. Jenkins Field House to take on West Texas A&M for the first time since the 2020-21 Division II Championship, it will be 223 days since the Bearcats made history.

In late March of this year, the Bearcats defeated Augusta 67-58 to secure the National Championship. It was the third straight for Northwest — a feat no other team in Division II history has accomplished. Now, the team prepares to take on the squad the Bearcats played for the second title of the three.

Regardless of previous outcomes or trophies in the case, coach Ben McCollum said the team needs to remain focused.

For us, to maintain the level of success, you have to be like what we always say, 'Process focused," McCollum said.

However, Northwest will return to the hardwood for the start of the 2022-23 season with a lineup unlike what the Bearcat faithful have become accustomed to over the past few seasons. When the Bearcats kickstart the new season, they will do so without two-time National Association of Basketball Coaches Division II Player of the year and the program's all-time leading scorer, Trevor Hudgins.

The former Bearcat signed a two-way contract with the Houston Rockets June 23. The contest against West Texas will be the first time in 139 games Hudgins is not in the starting lineup.

UP NEXT

NW vs. West Texas A&M 7 p.m. Nov. 5 Lakeland, Florida **NW vs. Flagler** 7 p.m. Nov. 6 Lakeland, Florida

When Northwest and the rest of the MIAA traveled Oct. 11 to the College Basketball Experience in Kansas City, Missouri, it was announced the Bearcats would begin the season as the preseason favorites to win the conference title. One of the players that came to represent Northwest was junior forward Luke Waters, who said Hudgins was an incredible player and teammate.

SEE FLORIDA | A9



WESLEY MILLER SPORTS EDITOR

Freshman guard Jonah Hinton, freshman forward Jack Ratigan and sophomore guard Isaiah Jackson compete against each other during a Northwest men's basketball practice Nov. 1. The Bearcats will play West Texas A&M to start the 2022-23 season Nov. 5 in Lakeland, Florida.





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